

Hangman Creek Watershed



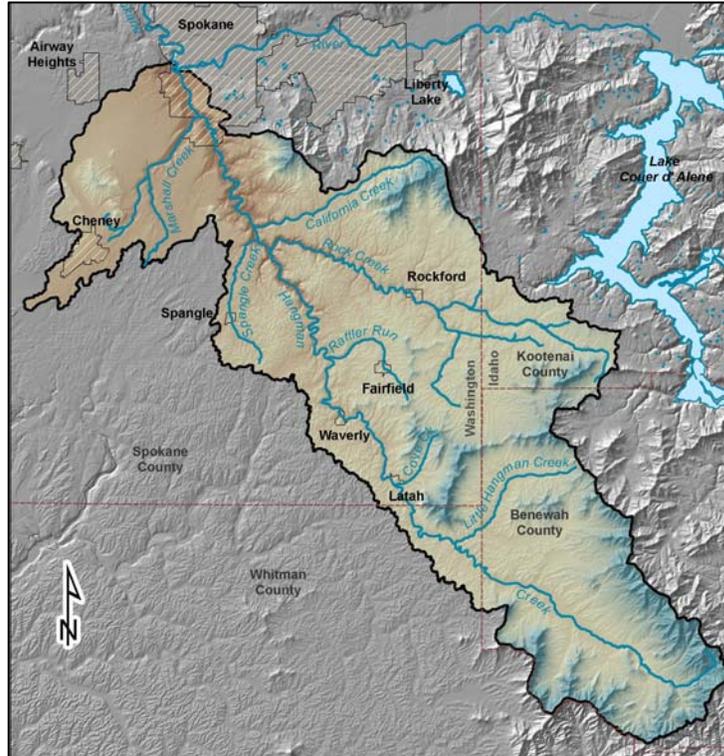
Watershed Statistics:

- Total drainage area: 430,000 acres
- Washington drainage area: 275,000 acres
- Headwaters: Forested mountains of Idaho
- Agriculture: 212,880 acres
- Forested areas: 119,490 acres
- Urban/residential areas: 12,565 acres



Major Tributaries to Hangman Creek:

- Rock Creek
- California Creek
- Little Hangman Creek
- Marshall Creek



Water Quality Issues in the Hangman Watershed

Hangman Creek (also known as Latah Creek) and several of its tributaries currently do not meet state water quality standards. Water quality standards are intended to protect water for beneficial uses, such as swimming, fishing, and drinking water.

The streams are impaired by several different pollutants. Some streams have high temperatures, low dissolved oxygen levels, or pH problems that do not protect aquatic life. Some have high levels of bacteria which can indicate the presence of fecal matter and disease causing organisms. These organisms can make people ill when swimming, boating, or fishing. In addition, Hangman Creek is a major tributary to the Spokane River. Therefore its water quality is also important to the on-going efforts to improve water quality in the Spokane River and Lake Spokane.

Water quality monitoring indicates the following problems:

Hangman Creek:	Little Hangman Creek:	Rock Creek:	Rattlers Run Creek:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fecal coliform bacteria • Ammonia-N • Turbidity • Dissolved oxygen • pH • Temperature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fecal coliform bacteria • Ammonia-N • Turbidity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fecal coliform bacteria • Turbidity • Dissolved oxygen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turbidity

What is being done to address these problems?

The good news is that a lot of work is already addressing these water quality concerns.

- The Spokane County Conservation District provides cost-share funds and technical assistance to help people protect and restore the areas along streams.
- The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has a variety of programs available to help producers address water quality and soil erosion issues.
- The Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association promotes the practice of direct seeding, which does not disturb the soil as much as conventional methods so less dirt ends up in the air and water.
- Many agricultural operations employ practices that prevent or reduce adverse impacts to streams.
- And much more by other organizations and individuals!

Because the streams are still impaired, the Washington Department of Ecology is required to develop a Water Quality Improvement Plan (also known as a Total Maximum Daily Load). With public input, the plan will be designed to bring the impaired streams into compliance with water quality standards. For more information please see *Water Quality Improvement Projects – What should I know & what does it mean to me?* (Publication #05-10-100) or visit www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/index.html.

In 2002 Ecology provided a grant to the Spokane County Conservation District to assist in the development of the Water Quality Improvement Plan. The conservation district conducted water quality monitoring to help determine how much pollution needs to be reduced to meet water quality standards. They have also formed an advisory group to work on solutions to improve water quality in Hangman Creek and its tributaries. The water quality improvement plan should be completed by the end of 2006.

How do I learn more?

For more information about the process or the work happening in the watershed, please visit the website below or contact one of the people below. You can also join the mailing list for this process.

Contact Information:

Website	http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/hangman_cr/index.html
TMDL Specialist	Elaine Snouwaert 509-329-3503 Email: esno461@ecy.wa.gov
Spokane County Conservation District Contact	Rick Noll, Spokane County Conservation District 509-535-7274 Email: rick-noll@sccd.org Website: www.sccd.org
Natural Resource Conservation Service	Website: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/ Spokane office: Phone: 509-323-2900

If you need this information in an alternate format, please contact us at 360-407-6404. For persons with a speech or hearing impairment, call 711 for relay service or 800-833-6388 for TTY.